

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1880.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

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SLAUGHTER IN ARGONNES.

Germans Attack French Fort in a Solid Column.

Germans Pour Troops Into East Prussia and Drive Out Russians—Austrians Also Claim Victory Over Russians—Other Sections of Battle Front Comparatively Calm.

WILL BRING RESULTS.

Warning Sent to England and Germany Will Open up Negotiations.

Washington, Feb. 12.—That the notes sent to Germany and Great Britain warning them that the American flag and rights must be respected will open long diplomatic negotiations and establish a basis of international rules regarding the use of neutral flags is the belief in administration circles today. The administration thought it best to speak plainly before some loss of American life and property aroused the public. It is stated that American shipping must be protected at any cost and this government will not tolerate even the suggestion that an American ship may be blown up accidentally.

PROTEST TO GERMANY.

United States Resents Holding Up of Diplomatic Correspondence.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Ambassador Gerard in Berlin today was instructed to make a strong protest to Germany against the German military authorities in Luxembourg holding up diplomatic correspondence of Henry Van Dyke, the American minister to the Hague and Luxembourg.

Driven Out of Prussia.

Petrograd, Feb. 12.—The heavy reinforcements which the Germans are receiving have practically driven the Russians out of east Prussia is admitted in the official statement today. The Russians are falling back to rearrange their forces and effect greater concentration which can best be done on Russian soil. Small encounters are reported on the right bank of the Vistula and in the Carpathians but all attacks by the Austro-Germans have been repulsed. In the Black sea the Russians have sunk a Turkish transport carrying provisions. Austrian prisoners from Przemyśl state that the garrison is so reduced for provisions that they are eating horse flesh.

Antwerp Bombarded.

Rotterdam, Feb. 12.—Allies' aviators today dropped bombs on Antwerp, killing thirty-five German soldiers. A Berlin dispatch says the Kaiser left again today for the east.

Germany Transfers Forces from Western to Eastern Battle Line.

Amsterdam, Feb. 12.—Large bodies of Germans are being transferred from the west Flanders zone to east Prussia. All other railway traffic has been suspended.

Sale of Absinthe Prohibited.

Paris, Feb. 12.—The chamber of deputies today adopted a law forbidding the sale of absinthe in France.

Tremendous Slaughter in Argonnes.

Paris, Feb. 12.—Tremendous slaughter marked the four days battle around Bagatelle in the Argonnes. The Germans charged the fortifications of Marie Theresa in solid column four abreast across a front not over five hundred yards wide. The guns of the fort poured a deadly shell fire into the assaulters, who wavered under the withering fire but only for a moment. On they came into the range of the quick firers and musketry which sent a shower of bullets in a perfect hurricane of death. Column after column broke, crumbled and finally turned and fled, leaving great piles of dead on the field. The Germans are renewing the attack with artillery today.

Austrians Repulse Russians.

Vienna, Feb. 12.—The Austrians broke through the Russian front in the region of Stry, forcing the Russians to retire and checked the Russian attacks in the region of Dukla Pass.

Gloom in Petrograd.

Petrograd, Feb. 13.—Gloom pervades the Russian capital today. Despite the announcement that the Russian retirement from east Prussia was for the purpose of choosing their own battle ground the public is showing

uneasiness over the fact that the Russians were driven back eighty miles. The Russian general staff declares that they are following out plans perfected in the early part of the war. The semi-circular formation of the Russian forces recently extended from the Mazurian lakes to Tilsit, therefore it changed its position without altering the general shape. One end of the crescent rests in the province of Plock, the other in the province of Kovno. That the Russian offensive is progressing north of the Vistula in the Miawa-Sierpec district of Poland and the Germans are being pushed back from Bzura, is the official report, but public believes that much is left unsaid in the reports.

Fierce Fighting in France.

Paris, Feb. 12.—The Germans are taking a vigorous offensive in the region of Verdun, but their attacks there on the French trenches have been repulsed. German aeroplanes flew over Verdun but their bombs did no damage. The Germans are violently bombarding Nieuport and Ypres. There is great artillery activity on both sides in the Champagne region. The official report says the French drove the Germans from a high spur north of Harmannevillekopf, inflicting severe losses.

Great Airship Raid.

London, Feb. 13.—The successful raid by British air ships on the German positions in Belgium is creating public confidence that they will be able to check the German blockade of the British coast by the Germans. The raid was the greatest in the history of the war. Over thirty aeroplanes took part and not a single machine was lost, only two were slightly damaged. They covered a wide area, inflicting great damage. Middelkerke, Bruges, Ostend and Blankenburghe were badly damaged.

Turkey Protests to Neutrals.

Constantinople, Feb. 13.—The Porte has forwarded a protest to neutral countries against Russia on account of their sinking the American steamer Washington which is reported to have been sunk in the Black sea by Russian warships.

Greece Demands Apology.

Athens, Feb. 13.—Greece has demanded an apology from Turkey for the action of the Turkish secret police at Constantinople in insulting the Greek minister. It is believed Turkey will comply.

Berlin Reports Gains.

Berlin, Feb. 13.—French attacks in the Vosges have been repulsed. The Russian offensive in east Prussia has been broken down and the Germans are advancing. The activity of the allies' aviators on the Belgian coast is admitted but it is declared little damage was done.

GERMANY'S VEILED THREAT.

Washington, Feb. 13.—German Ambassador von Bernstorff on instructions from Berlin today urged Secretary Bryan to call Great Britain's attention to Germany's guarantee that the American steamship Wilhelmina's cargo will be used only for the civil population of Germany. He impressed upon Secretary Bryan the advisability of accepting Germany's guarantee and suggested that serious consequences will follow an unfavorable decision of the prize court in the Wilhelmina case. He stated that the United States is vitally concerned in the continuance of neutral trade and "should not acquiesce in any action by Great Britain designed to starve out the civil population of Germany." He declared that if Great Britain upholds the seizure of the Wilhelmina's cargo measures will be taken by Germany to retaliate which would operate against the interests of the United States government. He said that Germany is willing that consular agents of the United States supervise the distribution of the cargo after it reaches its destination.

PROTESTS AGAINST GERMANS.

MINISTER VAN DYKE COMPLAINS OF UNWARRANTABLE ACTS.

Commander at Treves Said to Have Interfered With Relations to Duchy at Luxembourg.

The Hague, Feb. 11.—Henry Van Dyke, the United States minister to the Hague and also to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, said today that he had applied to the government at Washington to protest against German interference with his duties as minister to Luxembourg. He said his diplomatic duties with Luxembourg had been cut off by the German military commander at Trier (Treves), who had refused to permit his letters to pass because they were sealed with the seal of the American legation.

Dr. Van Dyke has been trying for four days through the friendly medium of the German minister at The Hague to obtain an explanation from Berlin of what he considers an invasion of his diplomatic privileges, but no answer has come from the German capital.

"That statement of facts is correct," said Dr. Van Dyke today. "The action of the German commander at Trier may have been a mistake of ignorance, but it must be explained and apologized for."

"Luxemburg is a small country of 250,000 inhabitants but the peaceful duties with which the American government has charged me toward that country are just as sacred as if it were a hundred times as big."

"It was the first of the neutral countries to be invaded and appears to be threatened with a failure of the food supply."

"I cannot consent to interference with my duties towards Luxembourg by any power in the world except that which conferred them upon me, namely, the government at Washington."

GERMAN OPINION CHANGES.

Berlin Willing to Admit That Some of the United States' Objections May Appear Well Founded.

Berlin, Feb. 13.—The German foreign office, after studying the American note respecting the declaration by Germany of a war zone in the waters around Great Britain and Ireland, states that the terms are much friendlier than previously had been expected by reason of the incomplete newspaper dispatches published here. The foreign office had not anticipated that the United States would accept the German position without objections, and it even recognizes that from an American standpoint certain of the points raised are quite justified.

Germany, however, it is declared, intends to adhere to its own viewpoint.

Various officials, diplomatic, naval and military, whose opinions have been sought, profess to see no elements of danger in the situation and are convinced that the naval campaign can be conducted on the lines laid down in the admiralty proclamation without involving difficulties between the United States and Germany.

GARLINGTON LOSES IN SUPREME COURT.

Judgement in \$25,000 With Costs Given Against Him in Carolina Agency Case.

Columbia, Feb. 14.—The Supreme court, in a decision by Chief Justice Gary, has affirmed the judgment of the Richland county court in the case of Wade Hampton Cobb, as receiver for Carolina Agency company, against John Y. Garlington. The action was begun January 5, 1909. Solicitor Cobb was appointed receiver for the company during the pendency of the action.

On July 21, 1914, Judge Prince signed a decree in the case.

The last paragraph in the decree follows:

"Ordered, decreed and adjudged: That the plaintiff herein shall have judgment against the defendant in the sum of \$25,000 and the costs of this action."

TRADE WITH ITALY.

Country Needs Supplies From United States.

Washington, Feb. 14.—President Wilson was informed today in a cablegram received from the American consulate in Milan that "Italy needs 1,000,000 tons of American coal, 300,000 tons of steel, hundreds of thousands of tons of American goods," and that "America can get the entire trade permanently."

"Reg Government furnish ships," the cable added.

BRITISH INVADE BELGIUM.

RAID MADE TO PREVENT DEVELOPMENT OF SUBMARINE BASES BY GERMANS.

Much Damage Was Done. Although No Submarines Were Seen Admiralty Says Results Were Satisfactory.

London, Feb. 12.—Aerial warfare was waged today on the largest scale in its history and under adverse circumstances from the standpoint of the weather. British air men, buffeted by snow in the air, swept over cities of Northern Belgium held by the Germans and dropped bombs on Ostend, Bruges and other places.

Thirty-four aeroplanes and sea-planes of the British navy took part in the operations and all returned to their base without casualties to their drivers, although two machines were damaged. The raid was made to prevent the development of submarine bases and establishments which might further endanger British warships and merchantmen.

Although no submarines were seen, the British admiralty statement indicates that the raid had satisfactory results, for considerable damage is said to have been done to German gun positions, railway lines and railway stations.

The Ostend station is reported to have been set on fire and that at Blankenburghe to have been badly damaged. German mine sweeping vessels at Zeebrugge also came in for a hail of bombs, but damage done to them has not been stated.

At various points the airmen were received by fire from German anti-aircraft guns and rifles. None of the airmen is reported by the admiralty to have been wounded.

A machine driven by Flight Commander Claude Grahame-White, among the most intrepid of the British flyers, fell into the sea while returning to its base and the aviator had a narrow escape from drowning. A cruiser picked him up and towed his aeroplane into port.

Wing Commander Samson, who previously had made several notable visits to enemy territory in an aeroplane, was in chief command of the raiding aviators.

During the raid warships bombarded the German positions along the coast.

ARRESTED AFTER SECOND FIRE.

M. M. Foster is Landed in Darlington Jail When Found in Burning Store.

Darlington, Feb. 13.—On last Monday night while the fire department was fighting the fire that destroyed Coggeshall's ginney, an alarm from the square was sent in and M. M. Foster's furniture store was found in flames. By efficient work the building was saved though it was an old one and the only frame building left on the square. This morning about 3 o'clock the alarm was turned in from the square again and the same place was found on fire and on the inside of the store, hid under a box, one of the firemen found the proprietor of the business. He is now in jail.

About 10 o'clock in the evening Foster was seen walking through the square and because of suspicious movements was shadowed by the police. Later he entered his store in the rear and a close watch was kept on the building from then until the fire occurred. Over glass doors in the rear of the building were spread rugs and leaned mattresses and through-out the building the firemen found excelsior saturated with kerosene. However, the fire was quickly extinguished and very little loss occurred. Foster for a number of years has been one of the leading furniture dealers of the town. He has a family.

MILITIA DIVISIONS CONTEMPLATED.

War Department's Plan for Organizing Regular Army and State Militia for Emergency.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Details of the war department's plan for organizing the regular army and the State militia into field armies, ready to respond without confusion to an emergency call, are given in a circular issued today by the department's militia division.

Creation of 12 militia divisions is contemplated. In the four proposed field armies there would be in all 316,264 enlisted men, in addition to some thousands who would be employed at depots and in transportation operations.

The circular shows that most of the States already maintain as many men as will be needed in the infantry and light artillery branches, but there is a serious shortage in coast artillery, cavalry and sanitary corps.

LEAVES POLICY TO ENGLAND

Germany Submits Note to State Department Stating That She Will Recede From Her Announced Plan, If England Will Allow Foodstuffs to Enter Germany For Non-Combatants.

Tells United States That This Country Should Bring Pressure on England to Insure Immunity for Neutral Vessels—Says War Zone Proclamation Was Retaliatory Measure—Churchill Denounces German Course—Austro-German Forces Continue Their Advance in Bukowina District—French Make Gains at Labasse—Germans Capture Trenches in Flanders.

GERARD TO MEET EMPEROR.

TO HOLD CONFERENCE AT BATTLE FRONT.

Admiralty's Proclamation for Submarine Campaign Goes Into Effect February 18.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Press reports announcing that the German emperor had invited Ambassador Gerard to confer with him at the battle front were read tonight with keen interest by officials of the United States government. Aside from the indication that the American note had produced an impression of supreme importance, it was thought the emperor had decided on a conference so quickly because only four days remain before the German admiralty's proclamation for a submarine campaign on merchant ships goes into effect.

In many quarters here it was supposed that one of the chief purposes of the informal conference was to elicit from the American government some understanding as to its position regarding shipments of conditional contraband destined to Germany's civilian population. Inasmuch as the German sea war zone proclamation is described as a retaliatory step against the allies because of alleged interference with food shipments destined for the population of Germany, the growing importance of the question was admitted on all sides here. There is every reason to believe it will be one of the chief points made by the United States in its next communication to Great Britain on the subject of contraband.

The long supplementary reply from the British government to the American note of protest of December 26 had not been transmitted in full tonight, but officials expected a complete copy of it would be ready for their perusal tomorrow.

At the German embassy it was said no word had been received from Berlin to indicate how soon a reply to the American note might be looked for.

It became known today that Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, pointed out to Secretary Bryan yesterday that Germany desires to encourage American shipping. This was shown clearly by his government, the ambassador asserted, when shortly after the beginning of the war Germany expressed the willingness to accept the declaration of London as the law of the seas, applicable during the war. It was Great Britain, the ambassador said, who had declined the suggestion of the United States that the declaration of London be adopted by belligerents and neutrals thereby compelling the United States to announce its purpose of being guided by the general international law on the subject of naval war.

Whatever suffering might come to neutral shipping as a result of the German decree declaring the waters around the British Isles to be in war zone territory after February 18, the ambassador declared, would not be the fault of Germany, who he asserted, must retaliate on Great Britain as vigorously as possible for her violation of international law in attempting to starve the noncombatant population of Germany.

FAIR SECRETARIES TO MEET.

Will Discuss Advisability of Organizing State Fair Associations of County Fairs.

Columbia, Feb. 14.—Secretaries of the several county fair associations in the State will meet in Columbia Monday, March 1, on call of Luther Ellison, secretary of the Lancaster county fair, to organize a State association. The meeting will be held at the Jefferson hotel. A programme is to be made public shortly.

GERARD TO MEET EMPEROR.

TO HOLD CONFERENCE AT BATTLE FRONT.

Admiralty's Proclamation for Submarine Campaign Goes Into Effect February 18.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The Germans in a note submitted today to the State Department through German Ambassador Bernstorff declares that Germany is willing to recede from its announced policy to attack British merchantmen if Great Britain will cease interference with shipments of foodstuffs consigned the non-combatant population of Germany. The note asserts that the war zone proclamation was a retaliatory measure as the result of Great Britain's departure from the rules of international law in the effort to starve Germany's civilian population. Referring to the use of neutral flags by British merchantmen United States shipping is again warned to follow the course around the North of Scotland. This note is not a formal answer to the protest of the United States.

The German note to the United States warned this country that if it wanted to protect its ships from the attack of German submarines that such an immunity can only be gained by bringing pressure upon Great Britain to permit foodstuffs on neutral vessels to be shipped to Germany without seizure. The note made plain the fact that if Great Britain don't modify her position Germany will enforce the war zone order after February 18th with all the power she can muster. It intimated that Germany will disregard the demand of the United States that German war vessels visit and search merchantmen before making any attack on them.

WILL PROHIBIT PIRACY.

London, Feb. 15.—In the house of commons this afternoon First Lord of the British Admiralty Churchill declared emphatically, "Germany won't be allowed to adopt a system of open piracy and murder without active reprisals."

Greek and Turk Relations.

London, Feb. 15.—A news dispatch states the Greek minister has left Constantinople for Athens, though the legation is still open. It is believed that diplomatic relations will soon be sundered.

Austro-Germans Advance.

Budapest, Feb. 15.—All the bridges over the Sereth river have been blown up by the Russians to check the Austro-German advance in Bukowina. The Teutonic allies captured the town of Radautz, the Russians fleeing eastward. The Austro-Germans are taking the offensive in southeastern Galicia, advancing twenty-five miles to the vicinity of Nadworna, where the Russians are making a stand.

British Merchantman Wrecked.

London, Feb. 15.—The British steamship Wavelet struck a mine off Deal and was beached today. The ship was bound for Leith from Pensacola, Florida, with a cargo of timber.

Germans Capture Trenches.

Berlin, Feb. 15 (Official)—The Germans in Flanders captured the enemy's position along a front of over a half mile near Steoi and held them despite desperate counter attacks. The French attack southwest of Labasse was repulsed.

Set Back for Germans.

Paris, Feb. 15.—Official—Another set back for the Germans who are attempting to cut through lines of the allies between Bethune and Labasse is announced. The French captured a trench two hundred and fifty yards long. The Germans used their heavy mortars, but the heavy French artillery showed decided superiority. In Lorraine the French drove the Germans back from Norroy.